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POLICY REVIEW

GOALS FOR CHILD SURVIVAL, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT
IN AFRICA: THE CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION

SUMMARY

The elaboration of national programmes of action in most African countries has resulted in the setting of priority actions for children and the costing of necessary interventions. Integrating these plans into public investment and national development programmes will result in the requisite synergism between priority social sector investments and investment in national infrastructure.

A commitment to increase resource allocations for child survival, protection and development was made at both the International Conference for Assistance to African Children, sponsored by the Organization of African Unity in 1992, and the Tokyo Conference on International Development, in 1993. Reaching the World Summit for Children and mid-decade goals will require increasing and sustained financial resource allocations for human development, from both African Governments and communities, as well as from external sources.

The adverse macroeconomic conditions most African economies face clearly will require policy modifications, including gains in cost-effectiveness, to some of the structural adjustment programmes if investments in social sector programmes are to increase. The devaluation of the CFA franc poses an additional challenge to African Governments and donors alike to ensure that requisite investments in the social sector are maintained in the affected countries.

As part of broader advocacy efforts to increase funding for priority human development, UNICEF is working for conversions of official bilateral debt in exchange for increased debtor government expenditures for social sector priorities. UNICEF has assisted in mobilizing local currency for programmes for children in Africa equivalent to \$18 million. It has meant a reduction in debt face value of \$31 million.

Both the World Summit for Children and mid-decade goals have highlighted the need for greater collaboration with a variety of partners: Governments; non-governmental organizations; communities; international and regional financial institutions; and other United Nations agencies. Building such broad-based alliances poses an additional challenge to UNICEF in Africa within the context of country programme strategies that aim towards capacity-building and empowerment of beneficiaries which support programme delivery. UNICEF will need to enhance its ability to work at subnational levels and to improve flexibility in channelling resources to innovative areas. Social mobilization and advocacy will take on an increased role.

The operational implications for programming within UNICEF are that, in a short period, UNICEF field offices in Africa have had to develop analytical capacities on a wide range of public policy matters, often extending beyond the traditional mandate of UNICEF, and to assume successfully a broader advisory and supportive role on issues of social development policy and strategy. This has implications in the areas of staffing, management and financing of UNICEF programmes in Africa.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. As requested at the 1993 regular session of the Executive Board (E/ICEF/1993/14, decision 1993/4), the present document reports on progress made in implementing the UNICEF commitment to Africa as the region of highest priority, and supports the commitments made at the International Conference on Assistance to African Children (ICAAC), sponsored by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1992, and the "Consensus of Dakar" adopted by the conference (see document A/C.2/47/13).

2. Over the 30-year period since the independence of many African countries, most indicators of human development and child survival in sub-Saharan Africa have improved considerably. Under-five mortality rates have been reduced from approximately 255 per 1,000 live births in 1960 to approximately 181 in 1992. Median crude death rates have fallen from 24 to 16 per 1,000 over the same period, while average life expectancy has increased from 40 to 51 years. There were dramatic increases in access to basic education, particularly during the period 1960-1985. However, over the past 10 years, structural transformation, armed conflicts and protracted civil disturbances have stifled human development, and some social indicators have deteriorated. Over the period 1980-1992, under-five mortality rates have actually increased in Angola, Ghana, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia.

3. Current social and economic trends in Africa and their impact on children and women were discussed extensively in the document entitled "Africa's Children, Africa's Future: Human Investment Priorities for the 1990s", which was prepared jointly by OAU and UNICEF in 1992 for ICAAC. Following the "lost" decade of the 1980s, average real per capita growth in sub-Saharan Africa is likely to remain negative throughout the 1990s. A 1993 report on overall resource flows to Africa in the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s notes that, "Africa's economic recovery is still remote, despite prevailing signs of modest growth in the world economy" (A/48/336, para. 2). This is despite efforts by most African countries struggling hard to implement structural adjustment programmes begun during the 1980s. Even where the Global Coalition for Africa (the donor consortium around the Special Programme of Assistance for Africa) considers the achievements and performances satisfactory, the changes taking place are very fragile and highly dependent upon external factors.

4. Despite the bleak economic and financial climate, the unprecedented changes in most of Africa present opportunities for progress towards sustainable human development. Open democratic processes will ultimately improve governance; structural adjustment will strengthen economic management; and community-based capacity-building and empowerment will transform living conditions. However, for Africa, it must be stressed that more open participatory democratic systems and better governance will not suffice to reverse decades of discredited colonial, and post-colonial economic policies, mismanagement and persistent social inequalities and global economic inequities. Nevertheless, democratization often leads to decentralization of government and involves some devolution of political, financial and management decision-making power from the centre to district and lower levels and provides opportunities for community

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participation in the development of social services to benefit a broader range of the population. This has been the case in Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia over the past year.

5. The impact of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in Africa severely clouds prospects for human development. The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS will have major short- and medium-term repercussions on infant, child and maternal mortality rates and other key indicators of human development. In sub-Saharan Africa, approximately 1 adult in 40 is infected with HIV, and in some cities the rate is 1 in 3. Estimates indicate that one fifth of the Government of Malawi's health budget is taken up by AIDS treatment, while the income lost as a result of the debilitating impact of the disease amounts to an estimated 7 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product.

6. It must also be kept in mind that an environment of peace, security and stability is of paramount importance to any efforts to improve the conditions of women and children. The protracted conflicts in Angola, Liberia, Rwanda and Somalia, and the hundreds of thousands of children and adults killed by warfare, disease and malnutrition, are testimony to the ravages of war. Conflict-related disasters and unrest have the potential to undermine years of concerted efforts by communities, Governments and external support agencies to improve basic services and to reduce mortality and morbidity.

II. FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN CHILDREN

7. ICAAC reiterated the commitment of African countries to the human development goals for the 1990s. A direct follow-up to the World Summit for Children, ICAAC differed from World Summit follow-up meetings held in other regions in that it focused on defining opportunities not only within the region but also beyond Africa for support to the implementation of national programmes of action.

8. In the Consensus of Dakar adopted by the Conference, African countries committed themselves to link their national programmes of action with their national development planning and financing structures. At ICAAC, African Governments expressed their commitment to human development through efforts to allocate at least 20 per cent of public expenditure to basic social services. Donors committed themselves to increasing and sustaining the share of official development assistance (ODA) for social priority sectors, bearing in mind the proposed level of 20 per cent of total ODA for these sectors. In particular, participants committed themselves to support the achievement of the following intermediate goals by the end of 1995:

(a) To raise Africa's average immunization coverage level from the 75 per cent achieved under the universal child immunization effort to 80 per cent against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis;

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(b) To ensure 90 per cent of coverage against measles, by far the most lethal of the vaccine-preventable diseases, and of tetanus toxoid for women of child-bearing age;

(c) To achieve 80 per cent use of oral rehydration therapy (ORT) in order to prevent dehydration caused by diarrhoea;

(d) To virtually eliminate iodine deficiency disorders through the iodization of salt;

(e) To encourage exclusive breast-feeding for four to six months and sustaining breast-feeding for up to two years of age, with the introduction of complementary foods at four to six months.

These interventions have the potential to contribute to a dramatic reduction in morbidity and mortality among children and women and to act as stepping-stones to enhanced child growth and educational development.

A. Action by African Governments

9. The increase in the social and political commitment to children is reflected in the fact that 43 African countries have now ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which provides the legal framework for the goals. The Convention is being used in many countries to strengthen existing laws and regulations that are of particular importance for children, as well as to secure more effective enforcement of these rules and standards. Indeed, the Convention can be a powerful tool to increase awareness and understanding of children's issues and rights throughout society. It also will help to mobilize the required political will and resources to address these issues. In the cases of Liberia and Mozambique, the Convention is being disseminated through peace education projects that are working with children and communities to rebuild the fabric of society destroyed by years of conflict. The key to successful implementation of the provisions of the Convention will be the articulation of these commitments through implementation of the national programmes of action.

10. National programmes of action in Africa define activities that will contribute to the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children. ^{1/} More than 40 African countries have completed national programmes of action. In countries such as Ghana, Mozambique and Uganda, the national programme of action provides, in effect, a planning framework for human development. The newly formed National Children's Council in Uganda received bilateral funding from the United States Agency for International Development and the Government of Norway for activities outlined in the national programme of action. While most national programmes of action have outlined their specific financing needs, in many cases more detailed work on the costing of priority programmes is still required. Operational subnational national programmes of action can further enhance the achievement of the goals. Through national programmes of action, and increasingly in World Bank-supported policy framework papers and public expenditure reviews, African Governments are committing themselves to, and are undertaking, a significant reordering of spending priorities towards human investment at the same time as they are implementing macroeconomic structural

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adjustment. These actions are also consistent with the "poverty-sensitive macroeconomic policy" approach called for by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

11. At the country level, financing requirements of national programmes of action will require a combination of approaches, including increasing revenues and restructuring budgets within and between sectors and, in particular, reducing military expenditures. However, for many low-income countries, budgets in all sectors are already compressed and gains from restructuring may be limited. National institutions are undertaking studies on the potential for budgetary restructuring, including in the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, and UNICEF is supporting those efforts.

12. Reducing military expenditures and channelling some of the savings into peace dividends for human development offer a special opportunity for budget reallocation. Namibia provides an example of freeing resources in this way. Before 1989-1990, up to 11 per cent of the colonial territorial budget was allocated to military and security purposes. With the achievement of independence, this was reduced to around 5 per cent of the national budget, with a simultaneous and approximately equivalent increase in allocations to community and social services. Significant shifts in public spending from military to social priorities have also taken place, or are currently in progress, in Benin, Ethiopia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. In addition to some long-term economic savings, the ultimate benefit of a peace dividend, however, is the potential for a secure and stable environment that will allow for long-term improvements in the situation of children and women.

B. Action by the international community

13. The achievement of the World Summit goals for continental Africa will require some \$8.8 billion each year from 1993 to the year 2000, plus \$3.9 billion per year for post-war and post-disaster rehabilitation, in addition to available resources. 2/ For the key programme sectors, approximately one half of the amount required must be found within national or community budgets, while the balance, \$4.4 billion, is required from external sources. Although the resource challenge is both large and serious, its magnitude should not be overstated.

14. Resource requirements should be viewed in the light of an inflow of ODA to the region of \$19.2 billion in 1991 and a per capita economic growth of minus 1.2 per cent. ODA to sub-Saharan Africa grew faster than average ODA during most of the 1980s, fuelled to a considerable degree by the increasing needs for humanitarian assistance. However, in the 1990s ODA to the region has stagnated, despite largely unchanged needs and repeated international commitments to Africa.

15. As an initial step to secure funding for human development priorities, UNICEF recommends that donor Governments allocate at least 20 per cent of their global ODA expenditures (channelled to developing countries bilaterally or through multilateral agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)) to human development priorities. This would support a similar effort to

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restructure expenditures that African Governments have committed themselves to through the Consensus of Dakar. It could double aid resources available for human development priorities. However, it must be underlined that considerable increases in overall ODA are required for Africa and, if achieved, a share of 20 per cent of ODA should be sufficient to bridge the finance gap for the achievement of the goals. UNICEF also advocates for similar allocations to human development priorities of resources available from international and African regional NGOs, many of which also participated in ICAAC.

16. The donor community must also help Africa to mobilize resources for human development through debt reduction. In 1992, \$10 billion left sub-Saharan Africa in debt-service payments, or more than four times as much as Africa spends on the health and education of its children. Over the past few years, bilateral ODA debt owed by low-income countries in Africa has been written off by a number of donors. However, the World Bank estimates that some low-income countries in Africa still face unsustainable debt service burdens. Donor Governments with outstanding debt in these countries should be encouraged to cancel their debt. The donor community must also work towards a solution to the increasingly severe problem of multilateral debt owed to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as well as to the African Development Bank (AfDB).

C. Maintaining UNICEF priority to Africa

17. The fact that one third of the 35,000 children who die world wide every day are African, although they constitute little more than 10 per cent of the world's child population, has resulted in the consistent priority that UNICEF has placed on Africa in terms of both human and financial resources. Measured in financial terms, total UNICEF programme delivery in Africa during 1993 amounted to an estimated \$294 million, equal to 37 per cent of total UNICEF expenditure. Furthermore, UNICEF resources allocated to Africa grew consistently over the period from 1985 to 1990 from \$106 million to \$216 million. Over the period 1985 to 1993, UNICEF initiated several actions to strengthen its presence and capacity in Africa. With the addition of new offices in Eritrea, Gabon and South Africa in 1993, UNICEF will have a full-time presence in 45 countries in Africa out of a total of 121 field offices world wide. Of the total 6,841 full-time staff in UNICEF, 2,702, or 40 per cent, are in Africa.

18. Debt-for-development swaps, including swaps for child survival programmes, have showed themselves to be successful vehicles for the reduction of other bilateral and commercial debt and the mobilization of local resources for investment in human development. To date, UNICEF has assisted countries, including Madagascar, Senegal and the Sudan, to identify priority areas where foreign exchange savings could be channelled into multi-year interventions with high national currency components without increasing inflationary pressure. These efforts have mobilized local currency for programmes for children in Africa equivalent to \$18 million. It has meant a reduction of \$31 million in debt face value. At the request of selected Governments in West Africa, including Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau and the Niger, UNICEF will work with UNDP and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to assess the debt

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stock and to identify suitable interventions for debt-for-development swaps in support of national programmes of actions.

19. In the current ODA scenario, establishing priorities for the use of national and international resources available for development becomes all the more pertinent. With the Special Programme of Assistance for Africa and other consultations, notably the Consultative Group meetings, the World Bank is increasingly taking the role of coordinator for external resource mobilization for Africa. Within this context, it is important that UNICEF should work with African Governments and the international donor community to ensure that national programmes of action and their resource requirements are duly considered and integrated into public investment programmes and public expenditure reviews, as well as in overall planning for medium-term structural adjustment. UNICEF welcomes the cooperation with Governments, the World Bank and AfDB regarding the design and implementation of multilateral credit in support of national programmes of action. In many African countries, the country strategy notes will provide an important opportunity for dialogue between African Governments and United Nations agencies, as well as other bilateral and multilateral partners, to assure that goals for children, as articulated in national programmes of action, are fully consistent with and complement other national programmes and priorities. Work on country strategy notes with a human development focus is already under way with the Governments of Botswana, Eritrea, Kenya and Malawi.

20. In Eritrea and South Africa, UNICEF has the unique opportunity to ensure that concerns for women and children are fully integrated into their emerging national development agendas. A first step in addressing this has been support for the preparation of the State of the South African Child, launched by Mr. Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 16 June 1993. The signing of the Declaration of the World Summit for Children by the President of South Africa, Mr. F. W. de Klerk, and Mr. Nelson Mandela at Stockholm, in December 1993, as well as by the President of Eritrea, during the round table on "Keeping the Promise to Children" in September 1993, will ensure that a "first call for children" is enshrined as a part of the process of nation-building in both these countries.

21. However, positive changes in the well-being of women and children in Africa cannot be guaranteed without the requisite changes in existing economic, political and institutional conditions. UNICEF will continue to draw attention to the positive and negative effects of macroeconomic trends and policies on the well-being of children and women. UNICEF will work with national policy makers and international financial institutions to promote the greater integration of poverty issues and the concerns for children and women in the design of such policies. The increased collaboration with local NGOs and civil society will build a coalition to enhance grass-roots participation and decentralization further and to reach the unreached, and should increase the cost-effective delivery of all programmes.

III. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF GOALS

22. Firstly, it is essential to establish clear, time-bound and measurable goals for social progress around which national consensus can be built towards mobilizing wide-ranging efforts. Africa's experience strongly underscores the importance of the national programme of action as a goal-setting process. Secondly, political commitment to such goals is required at the highest levels, coupled with consistency of political concern in the progress made towards achieving them. Thirdly, as a complement to this, regular, high-level monitoring and review - for example, on a six-monthly basis, as envisaged in a number of Africa's national programmes of action and instituted at the highest level in some countries - is a strategic measure in sustaining the momentum towards attaining social goals and enabling appropriate adjustments to be made. In many countries in Africa, support to the strengthening of national statistical capacity for the production of key and appropriately disaggregated indicators of human welfare will need to be provided over the short- to medium-term to provide a basis for monitoring social progress. Fourthly, a broad-based and effective social mobilization effort, involving a full range of national and local media, as well as leaders, opinion makers and organizational capacities in all relevant spheres, will be essential to ensure sustainability of social and human development efforts. Fifthly, the centrality of nationally established goals for children, women and human development in general will need to be maintained in overall development planning, including as a central part of medium-term structural adjustment programmes, where these are in operation. Finally, given the severe resource constraints under which the human development agenda and specific goals are being pursued in almost all African countries, the focus will need to be maintained on the reallocation of budgetary and resource priorities to those that will provide the greatest dividends in human development terms and on identifying, testing and widening the use of low-cost, high-impact interventions for human investment and social welfare.

23. Clear distinctions can be made between countries in terms of both the likelihood of achieving specific goals and in the strategies and approaches being adopted in these efforts. There are a few countries in sub-Saharan Africa, for example, Benin, Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal and Zimbabwe, where the current situation is such that virtually all of the mid-decade goals are achievable. Most countries in sub-Saharan Africa are in a situation where achievement of some goals is within reach, but there is a need to generate more political will, reinforce existing systems of management and service delivery and prioritize human and financial resources in order to achieve the goals. There are a number of especially challenging countries where progress is markedly uneven. Fundamental restructuring of management systems and review of mechanisms for service delivery are required if the goals are to be achieved. There is also a group of countries facing complex emergencies which probably can only achieve selected goals in specific geographic zones and among targeted population groups, given prevailing security conditions; examples of these countries include Angola, the Congo, Liberia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo and Zaire.

24. Several countries have adapted the goals to reflect their own realities. This is particularly important if achievement of tangible results is to contribute to building momentum in other areas. Many countries, including

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Burundi, Kenya and Zambia, have adopted goals to control AIDS infection rates. Similarly, efforts have been adopted in Equatorial Guinea, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania for malaria control, and in several countries rapid progress has been made in promoting the use of chemically impregnated bed-nets. These techniques hold great promise, as has been demonstrated in the Gambia, for cost-effective approaches to malaria control at the household level. Planning for and implementing mid-decade goals will provide important lessons for the achievement of those goals and can help refocus activities that support the broader World Summit for Children goals of improvements in educational achievement and nutritional status and the enhancement of the status of girls and women.

25. UNICEF analysis of the situation of countries in West and Central Africa suggests that at least 10 countries are likely to achieve the core mid-decade goals in the areas of immunization, elimination of micronutrient deficiencies, breast-feeding and eradication of dracunculiasis (guinea worm disease), and that a further 10 will be able to achieve these goals in at least some geographic areas if identified obstacles (managerial, financial and behavioural) are overcome. In eastern and southern Africa, UNICEF analysis suggests that the mid-decade goals related to health, including immunization, are feasible for most countries, particularly if the widespread moves towards strengthening health care delivery systems, with an emphasis on community participation and cost-effective interventions as embodied in the Bamako Initiative, are sustained.

26. UNICEF is responding to these new challenges by supporting capacity-building at subnational levels for civil society groups concerned with human development and with improving access to information by communities and the generation of new ideas within communities. The decentralization of resources will lead to more effective service delivery and will benefit from the willingness and ability of communities to participate. It will also further a sense of ownership and involvement among the communities served.

IV. UNICEF SUPPORT FOR ENSURING CHILD SURVIVAL, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: PRIORITY ACTION FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS

A. Support through UNICEF country programmes

27. The country programme remains the principal instrument for UNICEF support to national programmes of actions at the country level. Based on a thorough analysis of the current situation of children and women and an evaluation of past programmes of cooperation, country programmes are prepared in partnership with the Government concerned, national institutions, NGOs and communities based on national priorities, and implemented, monitored and evaluated by national institutions making use of UNICEF financial and technical support as required. Within the context of the United Nations reform and with Governments' country strategy notes as guiding frameworks for United Nations country-level collaboration, the primacy of the country programming process needs to be reasserted.

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28. In Africa, a key feature of UNICEF country programmes is the effort to support the decentralization of service delivery and building local capacity for improved management. These efforts are supported primarily by programmes of community-based health care and area-based initiatives to improve the quality and provision of basic services in education, health, nutrition and water supply and sanitation. Through the Bamako Initiative, many countries in Africa have witnessed a revitalization of service delivery at the health centre level through rationalized services and the institution of an essential drugs policy. Management capabilities are reinforced through micro-planning, monitoring and management training. Cost-sharing is implemented through revolving drug funds. Community participation is increased, especially in the management of services, finances and essential drugs. This process of capacity-building through the strengthening of community ownership and management will provide the impetus to increased household empowerment. The Bamako Initiative provides the foundation for achieving and sustaining the mid-decade goals related to immunization, the virtual elimination of vitamin A deficiency and the increase of the use of ORT.

29. The interface between the health system and the communities can be enhanced further on a large scale through the development of community-based systems for promoting simple preventive and curative care, as well as for advocating for major behavioural change in areas such as nutrition, hygiene and responsible sexuality. Efforts have intensified across Africa in public education, social mobilization, counselling, screening and monitoring and making contraceptives available in response to the threat of HIV/AIDS. UNICEF will continue its collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization and other partners in order to design more effective interventions in this complex area of behavioural change.

30. Area-based programmes, founded on an innovative pilot programme in Iringa, United Republic of Tanzania, are central features of the UNICEF programme approach in Africa. These programmes can have up to six main components: (a) community mobilization; (b) ensuring adequacy of food intake; (c) child development and education; (d) health, water supply and sanitation initiatives; (e) income-generating activities; and (f) children's and women's rights and protection.

31. An essential component of both the Iringa and Bamako approaches is support to systems-building to enhance people's capacity to address and find sustained responses to their own immediate and long-term needs as well as to organize communities so that they can articulate their demands for services. When properly focused, both the Bamako Initiative strategy and area-based programmes can also strengthen decentralized decision-making structures at the subnational level for improved mobilization of resources for child survival, protection and development-related activities. Such local reorientation of national or central resources is essential for the achievement of the goals.

32. The challenge of moving towards universal primary education is greater in Africa than any other region. During the 1980s, primary school enrolment fell from 79 to 67 per cent overall, despite impressive gains in Botswana, Ghana, Mauritius and Zimbabwe. UNICEF is supporting efforts to enhance quality and relevance; improve the functioning of existing systems; increase enrolment, particularly of girls; reduce drop-out and repetition rates; and improve

learning achievement. Given the constraints on financial resources, recognition of the need for the expansion and improvement of primary education is crucial. Complementary approaches to introduce and expand innovative non-formal education to those who are not likely to be reached in the near future through the regular system are essential. Strengthened links between communities and schools, as well as the active involvement of parents, NGOs and the private sector, are key strategies to support these efforts.

33. UNICEF will support major efforts in Africa to accelerate service coverage for both water supply and sanitation in a sustainable manner through national programmes of action. In particular, support will be directed to countries where access to services is lowest and present capacity weak. Sanitation and hygiene education will be given a high priority, foremost in areas where water supply coverage levels are higher. Particular emphasis will be given to improved strategy development for enhanced health and socio-economic benefits; support to dracunculiasis eradication through targeting of water supplies to most endemic villages and improved coordination of activities; strengthening links with strategic partners including multilateral and bilateral agencies; support for community empowerment, particularly the empowerment of women, through improved involvement; enhanced sector monitoring to accelerate progress; the development of strong hygiene education activities leading to behavioural change; and advocacy for increased sector funding.

34. In those countries experiencing emergency situations, UNICEF support will continue to focus on humanitarian assistance and the rehabilitation of livelihoods. In addition to country-level interventions aimed at providing immunization coverage, controlling diarrhoeal diseases and improving nutrition, UNICEF has focused on establishing early warning systems, emergency preparedness activities, emergency training and improving emergency communications. Initiatives are under way for the empowerment of communities and families through peace education and support to the psycho-social rehabilitation of war-traumatized children. Details on the emergency programme in Africa are available in document E/ICEF/1994/11.

35. UNICEF will encourage the use of international and national public and private resources for human development. This includes access to and utilization of the media to deliver basic child survival, protection and development messages and increased cooperation with the private sector, not only for the mobilization of financial resources, but also in using their networks to build new alliances and partnerships and increase outreach.

B. Alliance-building to achieve the goals

36. A critical element in ensuring the sustainability of human development programmes in Africa is the challenge to increase human and institutional capacity. As part of building the foundations for the achievement of the goals and ensuring that local knowledge, skills and commitment to these initiatives continue, UNICEF is making specific efforts to identify local African institutions to train, plan, monitor and conduct operational research on activities related to child survival, protection and development. UNICEF efforts to strengthen joint activities with institutions in Africa such as the

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Regional Centre for Development and Health (CREDESA), the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre, the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI) and several of the university-based African research institutions have helped to harness the skills and energies of some of the best regional and national expertise. In this way, CREDESA and ESAMI support for pilot programmes helped to develop operational strategies and support implementation of the Bamako Initiative strategy in several countries in the region. This shows clearly that capacity-building is not merely the case of UNICEF strengthening local institutions, but a mutual exchange of skills and knowledge and the establishment of a shared commitment to improving the lives of children and women.

37. In addition to support to local, national and regional institutions, building partnership and alliances with regional and subregional institutions in support of Africa's children is an important part of the UNICEF strategy for Africa. OAU and the Economic Community for Africa (ECA) have important roles in providing regional forums for sharing experiences on technical issues, maintaining political commitments and facilitating intercountry cooperation for children. OAU remains an enthusiastic ally in support of Africa's children through its work programme and operations. In particular, the endorsement in 1989 by OAU of 16 June each year as the Day of the African Child has created increasing awareness, both within and outside Africa, of the concerns and the opportunities that exist for children in Africa. The potential for working with the other intergovernmental organizations at the subregional level in Africa (including, for example, the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern African Development Community) for intercountry initiatives, such as the legislation for the iodization of salt, is being vigorously pursued.

38. AfDB has committed itself to allocating 25 per cent of its lending portfolio to social programmes. UNICEF and AfDB are negotiating initiatives at the country level for support of the implementation of national programmes of action. Other cooperation with regional organizations has included a joint ECA/UNICEF publication entitled "Atlas of the African Child". The UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office and ECA are working to streamline information on human development indicators and to develop systems for use at the national level for monitoring the goals as articulated in national programmes of action.

39. Apart from the important role these institutions have to play in strengthening economic cooperation and integration in Africa as an important factor in sustained economic growth, there is untapped potential in working with these institutions for joint programming and advocacy in the areas of health, nutrition and household food security. Sharing of interregional experiences in the control of AIDS and the prevention of poliomyelitis, dracunculiasis and trachoma are additional areas where forging alliances and partnerships with regional institutions is crucial for sustaining long-term improvements. These types of initiatives will expand the role of UNICEF regional offices in facilitating intercountry exchanges of experience and capacities.

40. The World Bank is one of the largest donors to Africa, including in the areas of health, education and water supply and sanitation. In recent years, consultations between UNICEF and the World Bank have intensified, especially at

the sector policy and country levels. Discussions at the country level involve the use of International Development Association credit for the provision of basic health care, basic education, nutrition, and rural and peri-urban water supply and sanitation. Following the recent devaluation of the CFA franc, the World Bank, UNICEF and other donors have met with Governments in the affected countries to discuss how to monitor the impact on vulnerable groups and how international assistance may mitigate the negative impact of the devaluations on access to basic food supplies for the poor and on the provision of basic services.

41. At a more general level, UNICEF field office participation in World Bank-organized consultative group meetings or UNDP-organized round tables for a number of African countries has contributed to the systematic examination of policies and programme and project designs for their likely impact on children and women. Through participation in the sector reviews, UNICEF has assisted Governments to secure the proper priority for national programmes of action goals within these sectors and to promote greater operational efficiency through the pursuit of low-cost interventions.

V. CONCLUSION

42. A sustained joint effort by African communities, their Governments and the continent's international partners to promote and increase investment in human development and better survival, protection and development prospects for children and women is the only way out of Africa's development crisis and the only route to sustained economic growth. To avoid disillusionment, the renewed initiatives in Africa must be matched by greater and better-directed inflows of international resources and by liberating the continent from its debt burden. Through the improvement in health and nutrition, the expansion of basic education and literacy and the enhancement of the role of women in development, rapid reductions in infant and child deaths in Africa can be expected, which, in turn, will help to stem population growth, reduce environmental degradation and alleviate poverty. Thus the goals and strategies for children, as part of the broad strategy for human development, provide the central core of an urgent agenda for development in Africa in preparation for the next century.

Notes

1/ Overall strategies and basic conditions for the achievement of these goals in Africa are discussed in Africa's Children, Africa's Future: Human Investment Priorities for the 1990s and the background sectoral papers which accompany the volume.

2/ For details, see Africa's Children, Africa's Future: Human Investment Priorities for the 1990s.
